

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01743 301220Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----038866 301223Z /23

O 301152Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7356
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1743

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PLO UN LE IS MOPS
SUBJ: SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON MARCH 30, UN SPOKESMAN SAMIR SANBAR SAID THE FOLLOWING:
2. THE CEASE-FIRE WAS HOLDING AS OF 1100 HOURS (LOCAL TIME) ON MARCH 30, WITH NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS REPORTED BY UN OFFICERS.
3. THE FRENCH COMMANDER JEAN SALVAN WAS NEGOTIATING WITH THE PALESTINIANS OVER QASIMIYAH BRIDGE. THE FRENCH HAD MOVED TO WITHIN "SEVERAL HUNDRED METERS" OF THE BRIDGE, BUT HAD NOT YET TAKEN CONTROL OF IT.

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4. BASIL AQL, WHEN HE SAW PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS ON MARCH 29, REITERATED THAT THE PLO WOULD HELP FACILITATE THE MISSION OF UNIFIL AND WOULD WORK TO HELP RESTORE CALM IN THE SOUTH. AQL, TO SANBAR'S KNOWLEDGE, DID NOT SPECIFICALLY SAY THE PLO WOULD RESPECT A "CEASE-FIRE."

5. THE ISRAELIS HAD PROMISED TO FACILITATE THE ENTRY OF UNIFIL FORCES TO MARJAYUN. NO UNIFIL SOLDIERS HAD YET GONE TO MARJAYUN, BUT THE NORWEGIANS WERE SCHEDULED TO SEND TROOPS THERE.

6. AUSTRIA HAD NEVER PROMISED TO SEND TROOPS TO UNIFIL. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAD PROPOSED TRANSFERRING AN AUSTRIAN COMPANY FROM UNEF FOR TEMPORARY DUTY TO UNIFIL. THE AUSTRIANS HAD NEVER ACCEPTED THIS.

7. CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS, THE SWEDISH CONTINGENT WAS NOT LEAVING. THE SWEDES HAD ON MARCH 29 ASSURED THE UN THEY WOULD STAY FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST.
PARKER

SECRET

NNN

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